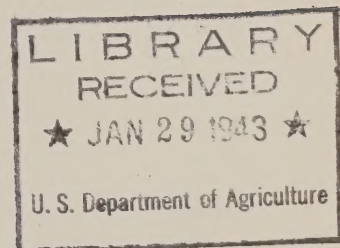


FARM LABOR NOTES

June 20, 1942

Extracts from reports of field representatives

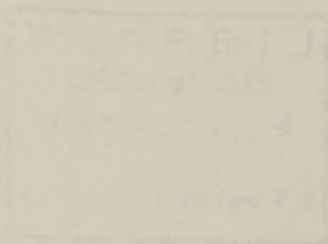


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Sources indicated by initials:

BAE	Bureau of Agricultural Economics
FLC	Farm Labor Committee
RLSC	Regional Labor Supply Committee
FSA	Farm Security Administration
FB	Far Board
OI	Office of Information
RS	Reclamation Service





## NORTHEAST REGION

With the seasonal increase in farm work, a general tightening of the labor situation is being felt on New England farms. Exchange labor is being used to a greater extent than in recent years and machinery is being utilized more fully. Most of the current operations have been completed, but the problem of securing sufficient labor for the hay harvest may prove difficult.

Farmers and others faced with the difficulty of securing needed help for agricultural work are now putting most of their emphasis upon (1) locating supplies of workers not ordinarily tapped by agriculture, and (2) training inexperienced workers for agricultural work. Throughout the region, the group called on most urgently is the youth of high school age. High school students willing to work on farms this summer have been, or are being, registered in all States, and the problems which arise out of recruiting, training, and placing them are being given considerable attention. In Massachusetts a system of local volunteer farm labor coordinators is in operation supplementing the work of 35 United States Employment Service Offices. Outside of Baltimore, an agricultural school has experimented with the plan of giving Baltimore youths a concentrated few weeks' training for farm work. In Vermont, over 200 placements have been made on farms through the efforts of the Volunteer Land Corps. (BAE)

### CONNECTICUT:

The USES in Connecticut registered about 14,000 high school boys and girls for farm work during the present harvest season. It is estimated not more than 100 or 200 such students have been employed on farms. In the areas where FSA intended to establish mobile camps, permission was refused because of zoning restrictions. Two abandoned CCC camps, located in Tolland and Hartford Counties, may be used to house seasonal agricultural workers. (FSA)

### VERMONT:

In Vermont, as in all States, there are two types of labor shortage. One is a shortage of part-time labor used in harvesting. It is the feeling in Vermont that this type of labor probably can be secured this year. Farmers will have to use less experienced help of this sort than they have in the past, such as high school students, college students, and women; in some cases they will have to be content with men older than those they formerly employed. The second type of labor shortage is that of the so-called regular hired men. Vermont farmers feel that such workers are indispensable, as their work on the farm is highly skilled and calls for the exercise of initiative. Good hired men are very scarce at present in Vermont. (BAE)

### NEW JERSEY:

The unhealthy publicity given to labor shortages in the local newspapers has been sharply curtailed. Reports from asparagus and strawberry sections indicate that the crops have been handled with a minimum of loss due to lack of labor. Reports from local and terminal shipping centers in New Jersey



place 1942 production well above that of a year ago; it is reasonable to assume that there were enough hands to harvest the crop. However, there is, and will continue to be, a need for migrant workers in South and Central Jersey.

Farm labor camps are in operation in Cumberland, Gloucester, and Burlington Counties and farmers in Atlantic and Camden Counties are extremely desirous of having camps located there.

Wage rates have continued to increase slightly and probably will continue to do so. It is still a "sellers" market so far as labor is concerned. (BAE)

Lack of transportation facilities is a decided factor in the failure of migratory farm workers to move into New Jersey from the South Atlantic States. (FSA)

A number of growers brought up a few truckloads of Negro workers from Florida. How travel expenses were shared is not clear, but it appears that a number of growers were assessed about \$8. per worker and that in some cases workers themselves were charged for transportation. One truck arrived at the FSA camp near Bridgeton with 57 persons, including men, women, and children. Many of these were in need of grants for subsistence.

Extended efforts, some of which met with success, were made to recruit both white and Negro workers of both sexes in New York City and other metropolitan areas for farm and food processing work in South Jersey. The USES in New Jersey reports registering thousands of high school students, WPA, and CCC workers, but how many will actually be available or acceptable to farmers is not known. (FSA)

#### PENNSYLVANIA:

A few localities in the southeast have a good supply of available labor due to slackening of operations in some foundries and shops caused by shortages of material. In the central part of the State, conditions are much the same but schools have closed and farmers expect to obtain additional help from this source. In the western and eastern counties, the farm labor situation is extremely critical as most labor has been absorbed by mills, mines, and Army ordnance work. These same industries are also taking many young boys into the plants during the summer vacation period.

By middle of June cherry time will be at hand - young boys are about the only help to pick the crop. The strawberry harvest was of short duration due to weather conditions.

In the southwestern and northwestern counties, where farm labor conditions are acute, much farm stock is reported being disposed of due to low prices and prohibitive cost of labor.

U. S. Employment offices are not being used to the extent they should be by farmers seeking workers. (BAE)

Last week, an Italian woman wrote requesting guidance on how she and her family could find employment on a farm this summer. Before we had time to answer, she personally came to the office. We found that she had been to the Farm Placement Service in Philadelphia and that they had not been able to help

her in securing a farm job. We called the Employment Service and were informed that they did not have any orders for farm workers, and furthermore, had a large number of persons, particularly high school students, who were interested in securing farm employment if there were any jobs available. Apparently there is either an over-supply of inexperienced farm workers in Philadelphia, or the Employment Service has not yet devised a clearance system that will find jobs for them. (DAE)



NORTH CENTRAL REGION

The farmers of this region are beginning to realize there is a definite labor shortage. In trying to overcome this situation they are working longer hours, exchanging more man and machine labor with neighbors, and hiring high school youths and older men who ordinarily would not be employed.

Areas of available farm labor are being spotted and plans are being made to recruit and transport this labor to areas where needed.

Lack of transportation and housing facilities for married workers is a factor contributing to the shortage of labor.

OHIO:

The anticipated labor shortage is not likely to be as severe as anticipated.

It seems pretty definite that sugar beets and tomatoes will be well taken care of through migrant labor.

The Employment Service reports that they are doing much better than they anticipated in filling requests for farm labor, including the year-round and monthly help. We are still faced with the problem that not enough farmers are using the Employment Service or else do not care to use it.

Apparently there has been a substantial increase in farm wage rates which, according to the Employment Service, is doing more good than anything else to solve the farm labor problem. (BAE)

INDIANA:

The very favorable weather conditions so far this spring have made it possible for farmers to keep abreast of the work. More than the usual amount of custom work is also a contributing factor to timeliness of operations. Truck crop growers apparently are able to obtain all the labor they need in their weeding operations. The first crop of alfalfa hay was harvested the first week in June and apparently the labor problems were met by greater use of exchange labor. (BAE)

ILLINOIS:

There is no real shortage of farm labor in any of the counties in the State of Illinois. However, in the northern part of the State, there is a shortage of single farm and dairy hands, as contrasted with experienced, married helpers, plenty of whom are available. Many farmers state that they do not have adequate housing for these married farm workers. (BAE)



The Illinois Farm Placement Agency is attempting to impress upon the farmers the fact that boys from the city who are mechanically minded can, with a limited period of learning, be adapted to the mechanical work which is such a large part of farming. The Agency is also asking farmers to build living quarters for farm couples. (FSA)

#### MICHIGAN:

There is not much change in the farm labor situation in Michigan as compared to that on May 1.

Apparently asparagus was harvested without loss and from all reports the strawberry harvest is being taken care of. In many areas schools have completed their spring term and young people are available, which has helped materially. Migrant help, especially Mexican, seems to be plentiful and no shortage of this labor has been reported. The question here, however, centers around the ability of the beet and truck growers to hold this help throughout the season despite competition for labor and the demands of the tomato harvest.

We are disappointed in the lack of aggressive leadership in the U. S. Employment Service's farm placement representative program. As reported previously, each important agricultural county is supposed to have a farm placement representative of the U. S. Employment Service who acts as chairman of a County Administrative Council of Farm Labor, and serving with him are a representative of the County USDA War Board and the County Defense Council. It was hoped by this arrangement that the War Board would be instrumental in getting farmers to recognize and use the Farm Placement Office and the Defense Council would assist in the recruitment. To date we have little evidence to show that the farm placement man has been active in heading up this council and little progress seems to have been made in getting farmers to use this service. It may be that for the present crop year we shall be able to stumble through in our usual hit-or-miss fashion whereby each farmer obtains help by chance or personal recruiting. However, we had hoped that the U. S. Employment Service, through the farm placement representative, would become actively established this year in order to meet the situation in 1943 when the labor situation will have to be handled efficiently. (DAE)

The transportation of farm workers is a serious problem within the State. It is expected that sugar beet workers from the sugar beet areas of the State will come into the area to pick the cherries, but as yet no provision has been made for their transportation. (FSA)

#### WISCONSIN:

Farmers in the State are continuing in their attempt to keep their requirements for hired labor down, as the supply of experienced labor is limited. Some of the common ways are: hiring a much larger than usual amount of custom tractor work, such as plowing and working up the land; exchanging more man and machine labor with neighbors; and the use of more boys and elderly men on farms as well as farm women and girls as the supply of draft-age labor is reduced. More high school boys from villages and cities may be hired by farmers than were expected a month or two ago. (DAE)



On the basis of a study conducted in Wisconsin, it appears that there is a reservoir of under-employed labor in the cut-over region that is available for employment. The opinion of the men interviewed was that if definite jobs were offered the under-employed men of the area, particularly the younger group, no serious difficulties would be encountered in inducing them to move. Three factors would have to be taken into account, transportation costs, arrangements for credit until first wages were received and assurance of definite jobs at full-time employment. (BAE)

#### MINNESOTA:

At the present time, there is no serious labor shortage in Minnesota. The Employment Service advises that the principal difficulty they are having at the present time is to find farm jobs for the 3,000 city and town boys that have registered for farm work. (BAE)

#### IOWA:

In Iowa farm work has made about normal progress. However, since the first of the month State-wide rains have interfered with putting up alfalfa hay and with corn cultivation, consequently a tight situation regarding farm labor is likely to develop when it clears up. Exchange of help will be very common during haying and harvesting but there is no criterion to judge how much more extensive the practice will be this year than other years. (BAE)

#### MISSOURI:

The supply of labor seems adequate for the present but an acute shortage is expected at harvest time. Wet weather over the State has delayed farm work and there will be a doubling of requirements. The small grain and hay harvest will conflict with the planting and cultivating of spring planted crops. There was a serious shortage of labor in the strawberry area in southwest Missouri, which caused a 25% loss of the crop. (BAE)

#### SOUTH DAKOTA:

The sugar Company has given special attention to securing beet workers, who will also assist with regular farm work, and with the pickle harvest; some are capable of handling tractors. If favorable conditions continue a good crop will be harvested and a serious labor shortage may develop.

The registration of school youth has been completed throughout the State. It is apparent that this pool of labor should meet agricultural demands between now and harvest time.

Several communities in the State are planning a registration of business men for work on farms during harvest. There is some shortage of experienced sheep herders, and the shortage is expected to increase when lambing and shearing is completed. (BAE)



## NEBRASKA:

According to an estimate made during the first week in June, the North Platte valley area will need a thousand additional beet workers on June 8. If they are not available, however, the farmers are not expected to plow up the beets but it will mean a lower beet yield. A number of workers have been sent up from Oklahoma, but they consist of former white and negro tenant farmers, and are very slow at beet work and some will not make living expenses. It is estimated that it takes one of these workers 45 days to block and thin 10 acres of beets, as compared with 20 to 25 days in the case of an experienced worker.

Several training programs have been inaugurated in the State for training prospective agricultural workers, mostly school youth. These programs thus far have had only a limited result. (BAE)

## KANSAS:

Farm areas in which labor shortages are probable in the next six weeks include the western Kansas wheat area and possibly the northeastern area for haying and row crop cultivation, in addition to continuing shortages for dairy hands. The Kansas winter-wheat report of May 15 estimated the production at 175,000,000 bushels which would be the third largest Kansas wheat crop on record. A principal factor for probable shortage of labor for the Kansas wheat harvest is the current prospect that the crop will ripen for harvest evenly over the State, rather than the usual differences in time between southern and northern Kansas which permits a transient worker to work in from two to three areas in the State.

The shortage of local storage space for wheat will also increase the farm labor problem. The job of grain shoveling will require adult workers in place of younger boys who generally do considerable of the hauling when the grain is taken to the local elevator or railroad car for loading.

A considerable increase in war plant activity in Kansas during June and early July will also decrease the supply of local labor for farm work. As of June 1, about 11,000 construction workers were employed on Kansas projects, and by the middle of July there will be about 22,000 workers on construction jobs.

East central Kansas is expected to have some farm labor surplus in the next six weeks.

The current closing of eight of the 26 district USES offices in Kansas will work a very definite handicap on farm placement activities during the peak farm labor demand period. (DAE)

The Kansas Extension Service has developed plans for temporary housing accommodations suitable for married farm workers. (BAE)



- 3 -

## SOUTH ATLANTIC REGION

Migrant workers on the Eastern Shore of Maryland report that many other migratory farm laborers are idle in Florida or are stranded in Georgia and South Carolina because of poor and broken down automobile and truck facilities.

The FSA Regional Office at Raleigh, North Carolina, reports that in North Carolina and Virginia, in particular, and in the South Atlantic States, in general, there is an urgent need for an organized system of farm labor transportation. In this respect, small farmers have suffered to a greater extent than large growers, as the latter were able to buy tires and equipment both before and after the freezing orders.

Inadequate transportation is also resulting in only partial use of available farm workers. It has been observed that workers who finish their work before noon must wait for transportation before filling the labor needs of other farmers in a locality.

Few farmers have cooperated with each other. However, in Chadburn, North Carolina, they agreed to pay for the transportation of workers recruited by the USES. The costs were prorated among the farmers on the basis of the number of workers hired by each farmer and the number of days such workers were employed. Workers were guaranteed return transportation. (FSA)

### MARYLAND:

The supply of labor for the planting and cultivating of crop acreages has been sufficient. The first serious test will come with the tomato harvest, when both canneries and growers will need labor to harvest Maryland's big acreage. The transportation situation is causing some concern among farmers. Many are unable to get tires, but apparently growers have no difficulty in securing sufficient gasoline. Wage rates, while being complained of as high, are being adjusted with reference to efficiency. Boys are being hired at a lower rate than men. In western Maryland there does not seem to be a serious labor situation, while further eastward into the dairy and general farming areas, labor is scarce and inefficient. (BAE)

The FSA mobile labor camps are open in Maryland, located at Westover and Pocomoke City. Many farmers do not have the facilities to transport the workers from the camps to the fields each day. (FSA)

### WEST VIRGINIA:

Haymaking, beginning now, and wheat harvest the latter part of this month and the first of next will keep farmers very busy. If there is any actual shortage of labor it should begin to make itself evident this month.



The labor situation in the Eastern Panhandle apple area is becoming serious and the Employment Service is attempting to assist with the solution of the problem. (BAE)

#### VIRGINIA:

Although it seems probable that acreages of most crops and production of livestock and poultry will be just as large as, or larger than, last year, many farmers have had to reduce increases that they anticipated making to fulfill the Government's request for increased food production, due to lack of farm labor. There has been a limited loss of vegetable crops in the Norfolk Section due to insufficient help. It is expected there will be considerable difficulty in securing workers for digging potatoes both around Norfolk and on the Eastern Shore. Harvest of tomatoes for canning in July and August may present a more serious problem. (BAE)

#### NORTH CAROLINA:

Farm work was in full swing on June 1. The cultivating and vegetable harvesting is being done mainly by women and children, whereas the combine is helping out greatly with the small grain harvest. Producers are keeping up with their work as well as, if not better than, usual. Tobacco harvest will be about the biggest job to be done. Women, children, and workers from nearby towns should be able to take care of the situation. (BAE)

Six FSA mobile labor camps are open in North Carolina. (FSA)

#### GEORGIA:

There were sufficient farm workers to complete all farming activities in Georgia during May. Previously reported anticipated shortages either failed to materialize or methods of overcoming labor shortages have been developed.

In South Georgia part of truck crop is not being moved; lack of adequate transportation facilities, and a poor market are the contributing factors. Available farm laborers were more than adequate to meet present demands in this area. (BAE)

#### SOUTH CAROLINA:

There is complaint of labor shortage but it is thought that generally the supply is sufficient to afford reasonable cultivation of acreage planted. Increased use of machinery, such as grain combines, and exchange of work, is supplementing man power.

Every USES local office in South Carolina reported that there was no actual shortage of farm laborers, and that unemployed farm workers were not willing to accept agricultural employment at prevailing wage rates, living conditions and hours of work.

In some instances South Carolina farmers were unwilling to accept white migratory workers from Florida, of whom two hundred were available, provided that transportation was furnished. (DAE)

#### FLORIDA:

The USES reports that approximately 500 unemployed farm workers have refused to leave Broward County where they are being given assistance by the Farm Security Administration. In the adjoining Hendry County there is a shortage of 1000 hoe hands, needed in cultivation of sugar cane. Hendry County planters are offering \$1.50-\$2.00 per day for hoe hands. At Ruskin (Tampa area) approximately 2,200 bushels of beans, 4,000 bushels of cucumbers and 15,000 bushels of tomatoes were lost because of lack of transportation and housing facilities for farm laborers who were available in nearby counties.

The U. S. Sugar Corporation, located in the Everglades area of south Florida, has expressed some concern at not being able to get enough laborers for their summer operations. Only about one half of the laborers that they had expected to hire in May were available and the prospects of getting more do not seem good. The Corporation employs around 5,00 men. (DAE)

Five FSA standard labor camps are open in Florida. (FSA)

1935



## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

This area is now approaching a labor peak due primarily to demands for cotton chopping. There is general agreement that, with some local exceptions, available labor will be adequate to meet the needs. (BAE)

Transportation of farm workers is no problem in this area and farmers will be able to obtain an adequate supply of labor this year. (FSA)

### ARKANSAS:

Arkansas cotton farmers are beginning to inquire about the possibility of utilizing in the cotton harvest the 10,000 to 20,000 Japanese which it is reported are to be moved from the West Coast to southeast Arkansas.

The FSA migratory labor camp at Springdale opened May 1 and now houses about 135 families. Only families who are actually working in the locality and for whom private housing facilities are not available are admitted. Nearly all requests for labor are for sharecroppers - "working on the halves" - and this is the type of labor most difficult to recruit. (BAE)

### LOUISIANA:

"Good farm labor is hard to get" and "farm labor is scarce in this locality" were typical of the majority of the comments received. However, a larger proportion than in any previous month this year indicated that the situation was "satisfactory" or "not serious at present." (BAE)

### OKLAHOMA:

There is adequate labor supply to meet all current and future demands of agriculture in all parts of the State, with the possible exception of the northwest section, during the coming wheat harvest. There is likely to be some scarcity of well qualified tractor and combine operators. Some 2,000 sugar beet workers have been recruited for employment outside the State. (BAE)

### TEXAS:

For the first time this year, scarcity of farm labor is being felt in many local areas throughout the State. Shortages are anticipated in the wheat harvest, cotton chopping, cotton picking, and in some cases, the fruit and vegetable harvest. The extent of summer and fall shortages cannot yet be anticipated because of the uncertainty of crop and weather conditions and the movement of labor between areas.

Reports from the office of the State Commissioner show that 20,000 Mexican

farm workers has been recruited by licensed agents for approximately 20,000 more will be solicited if available. It appears that 1944 will show a surplus of 15,000 workers will leave for the West. Some farm agents are planning to continue recruiting workers as through the summer for work in the cotton fields of the Mississippi Delta. There appears to be no chance of stopping this migration except by seeing competition through increased wages and better working conditions.

It is the consensus of opinion that an appreciable number of Mexican workers will enter the United States during 1944. An estimated plan of farming operations should be based upon expectations of a labor supply from Mexico this year. (BAE)

Seven FSA standard labor camps are open in Texas. (FSA)

#### MISSISSIPPI:

In various labor shortages are anticipated until the harvesting of cotton and soybeans in September and October. Throughout the State there are an estimated surplus of over 6,000 laborers in May.

A large percentage of the hired labor concentrated around and within from nearby towns and farms. (BAE)

#### KANSAS:

"Farm labor was plentiful but no amount of payment of the workers. The situation is not acute." Farmers and families are working long hours and continue to exchange work with neighbors. Women and children are doing an increased amount of the work on farms. (BAE)

#### KENTUCKY:

Scarcely would any serious labor problem if available labor were more equally divided over the State. (OI)

There was not an unusual labor shortage until the weather has been sufficient to carry on all essential farm work. Farmers have used more of their own family labor and the earnings of their hired labor have greatly increased over last month. (BAE)

#### ALABAMA:

No farm labor shortages were reported during the month of May. The weather retarded farm labor demands. No farm labor shortages are anticipated during June. (BAE)



## MOUNTAIN REGION

In this region the importance of sugar beets and other specialty crops, with their heavy demand for seasonal labor, emphasizes the need for more satisfactory housing accommodations for seasonal workers, more adequate provision of transportation facilities and arrangements to promote prolongation of the period of employment.

### MONTANA:

Generally, the situation is not critical although some areas report a lack of competent labor. Labor supplies will be heavily taxed to harvest the hay crop. Experienced sheep herders are scarce in the sections of the State having large numbers of sheep. There is indication that some unshorn sheep will go to the summer range.

Transient labor continues to move slowly into the beet areas of the State. According to information secured from the U. S. Employment Service, about 3,750 workers have come in to date out of a total need of out-of-state workers of about 5,000.

In the Great Falls area, 125 high school students are working in the beet fields. More students would do beet labor if farmers would board and room them. (BAE)

### WYOMING:

The outlook for farm labor during the summer months is not favorable. There probably will not be a serious shortage of farm workers until haying and harvest of small grains, although there is a shortage of skilled farm workers now. (BAE)

### IDAHO:

In general the conditions over the State at the present time are fairly encouraging as far as the farm labor supply is concerned. The available supply is very small and in nearly all sections of the State it is impossible to find any additional farm labor.

Beet thinning is well along in the southwest and the south-central areas where considerable work was done by townspeople and businessmen and even State officials in some cases. In the Southeast, the beets are not so far along and at present thinning is coming along so that we expect only small loss of beets in the area. About 300 Japs have moved into that area and they will help the beet-thinning situation materially.

In certain localities in the southwest, large numbers of workers will be needed during part of June for picking cherries if the crop is to be saved. An additional labor demand will be created by apple thinning work in these same localities during June.



Probably the greatest need for labor over the entire State in the next two months, after beet thinning is over, will be for haying crews. In strictly hay ranch areas, exchanging labor or using smaller crews will not solve the problem. In case of labor shortage, some of these farmers intend cutting and piling the hay but not stacking it. This will save only part of the crop and the part saved will be of lower quality. (BAE)

One FSA standard camp and eight mobile labor camps are in operation in Idaho. (FSA)

#### UTAH:

The labor situation is one of abnormally high demand and low supply. Utah has received ~~the~~ more than a proportionate increase in industrialization, due to the war effort, with consequent heavy and increasing demands on the resident labor supply.

To meet this situation, State agricultural leaders called on schools and townspeople to help out. Schools were dismissed earlier than usual in farming communities, and special training was given town and city children in farm tasks. Gangs of these non-farm children were recruited and placed under the supervision of competent men for the purposes of performing such work as thinning beets, putting up hay, etc. Business men also responded with holidays for clerks and other employees who want to do farm work. Probably the most effective help comes from farmers themselves who work more family labor and for longer hours than usual. Unmeasurable, but undoubtedly important sources of help are the Japanese evacuees from coastal areas. Most of these people left before the general order was given and consequently are free to look for employment on Utah farms. (BAE)

#### ARIZONA:

It is expected that, with the exception of chopping cotton, there will be a decreased need of workers in Arizona by the close of the month. High prices paid for general construction labor, which have diverted some agricultural workers to construction jobs during the past six weeks, are still a sore spot with many local farmers who find it difficult to replace the workers who have left their farms. (BAE)

One FSA mobile labor camp and three standard camps are in operation in Arizona. (FSA)

#### COLORADO:

In the Platte River Valley labor needs have been adequately taken care of. There are, however, isolated cases in which the farmers are having difficulty in obtaining beet workers. In these cases, the problem is one of housing and transportation rather than of an inadequate supply.

This same situation seems to prevail in the Arkansas Valley.



The farmers on irrigated tracts are planning to use their beet laborers for the grain harvest this year. However, a real shortage of harvest hands for the dry land grain farms may soon develop.

Farmers in eastern Colorado who have realized the necessity for raising the wages to meet industrial competition find it not too difficult to get year-round labor.

More complaint is heard about the inability to get experienced irrigators than any other type of skilled farm labor. (BAE)

#### NEW MEXICO:

The demand for cotton choppers is extremely heavy, with the supply considerably under the number required to care adequately for the crop, which has become badly infested with weeds. There is an increasing demand for sheep shearers. The possibility of securing workers from Mexico to work in the cotton fields is not very encouraging and it is possible this year's acreage will have to be taken care of by local labor.

It is estimated, as of May 30, approximately 12,500 potential farm workers have left New Mexico this year for other States. (BAE)

#### NEVADA:

So far, the labor situation in Nevada has not become acute. It is becoming harder to get good ranch hands.

When haying season commences farmers and ranchers will have a hard time getting sufficient labor. (BAE)

Emergency restrictions in 1934 caps in Oregon and Washington have been lifted. The facilities of the caps will be available to about 6,000 workers. It is expected that the opening of the caps to all workers will eliminate the necessity for transferring many workers from their homes in Iowa and other States. (BAE)

There is a strong demand for skilled help on Idaho farms. Some early crops have been planted and there is considerable work to be done. The haying season is under way, and will continue throughout this month. The fruit areas of central Washington, including of apples, pears, peaches, and grapes, are in full bloom, and will continue to produce through the summer. There is an actual shortage of workers at present, in that all the haying work which should be done for property is not being done. There is a steady demand for beet workers - labor for this work is not plentiful, yet we believe that it is just about sufficient to do the job. (BAE)



## PACIFIC REGION

The farm labor situation continues to be critical in spots. No general labor shortage is apparent, but acute shortages have developed in some localities because wet weather has shortened the season for some crops and delayed essential operations on other crops. However, weather influences have not been totally unfavorable. Intermittent rains and cool weather have caused small fruits and berries to ripen slowly so that harvesting is being done over a longer period and with less labor. Rainfall in some areas has considerably reduced the amount of thinning labor for tree fruits.

Migration into California continues at high levels. Migration to other States of the Far Western Region is reported to be at levels very much lower than last year. Movement of available workers within various States as well as interstate migration is becoming more and more dependent upon the provision of transportation to workers.

Numerous charges of crop losses continue to be made by farmers and others. Most of these have been based upon bona fide physical losses, although usually very much inflated as to extent of loss. However, the failure to distinguish between physical losses and economic losses tends to create a false and confusing picture for the layman and others.

Recent data obtained from reports of the sugar beet companies' fieldmen indicate that not over 2,000 acres of sugar beets in the entire State have been plowed under and not replanted to beets.

It is generally conceded in the Far Western Region that the 1942 dairy production goals will not be met. High feed prices, high labor costs, poor haying conditions, high prices received for dairy cows sold for meat, and relatively low prices for butter fat include most of the reasons. (BAE)

Occupancy restrictions in FSA camps in Oregon and Washington have been lifted. The facilities of the camps will be available to about 6,200 workers. It is expected that the opening of the camps to all workers will eliminate the necessity for transporting many workers from their homes in towns and cities to farms. (FSA)

### WASHINGTON:

There is a strong demand for skilled help on dairy farms. Some dairy operators have sold their herds and there is considerable talk about selling after the flush season. The greatest need for workers during June will be in the fruit areas of central Washington. Thinning of apricots, pears, peaches, and apples is under way, and will continue throughout this month. For the latter work, there is an actual shortage at present, in that all the thinning which should be done for properly sized crop is not going forward. There is a steady demand for beet weeders --labor for this work is not plentiful, yet we believe that it is just about sufficient to do the job. (BAE)